

JOB CORPS

PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK

Dallas Region
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American Red Cross and Gary Job Corps Open New Hays and Caldwell Counties Locations

The American Red Cross of Central Texas and Gary Job Corps held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Gary Job Corps April 18th to open their new location in Hays and Caldwell counties. The agreement between the two agencies was signed in September in an effort to share resources to benefit residents of Hays and Caldwell counties and ensure faster response times during disasters.

The partnership will provide the Red Cross with training, office, and warehouse space, as well as warehousing staff support, while providing Gary Job Corps learning opportunities for its students in a

variety of Red Cross lines of service including Health and Safety Education, Community Disaster Education, and Disaster Relief. Gary Job Corps and the Red Cross will also explore ways to involve students in internships and work-based learning opportunities, as well as training and certification opportunities in Health and Safety Services and Disaster Services.

"We are truly excited about this partnership with Gary Job Corps and look forward to making great strides in Hays and Caldwell counties," said Patsy Greiner, Hays County volunteer. "Gary Job Corps not only demonstrates a strong

commitment to the community with their support to the Red Cross, but also a strong commitment to its students in providing life-saving Red Cross training."

Twelve students in Gary's Correctional/Safety Officer and Health Occupations courses have

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New Look!

We've given the newsletter a face lift to match the visual theme of our new posters and fact sheets. Let us know what you think of our new look.

Carrasco Industry Council Meets



Tom Thomas (center), Senior Vice President for Economic Development of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, visited with Center Director Mary S. Young and Counseling/Career Development Supervisor and Business/Community Liaison Juan Lechuga following the Industry Council meeting.

Tom Thomas, Senior Vice President for the Economic Development Division of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce was guest speaker at the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center's Industry Council Meeting

on March 7, 2002. Thomas spoke about the mission of the Economic Development Division, which was formed in January 1995. He stressed that the goal of the Division is to improve wages and the quality of life in the El Paso community.

More than 600 representatives from manufacturing, information technology, defense, and medical-related industries visited El Paso during the past year. Thomas spoke about the four industry categories the Chamber of Commerce has identified. The city's Economic Development office is working to attract such firms to relocate to the El Paso area.

According to Juan Lechuga, the center's Counseling/Career Development Supervisor and Business/Community Liaison, "The purpose of the Industry Council is for employers and business owners to inform

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JOB CORPS News

Getting Kids To Stay After They Decide To Go

By Allan Kaufman



One of the innovative new programs in Job Corps is Gary's S.T.A.Y. Team. S.T.A.Y. is an acronym for Support To Assist You. Its purpose is to solve problems for

kids who feel their needs aren't being met. Kids who become so frazzled, frustrated, or just plain angry they can't think of anything but going home.

S.T.A.Y. Team is on call twenty-four seven. That's not difficult as it sounds since three team members share the responsibilities. The bulk of the calls come between 8am and 5pm and are handled by the team's career counselor. The other team members, a career prep manager and a student life staffer, divide the remaining slots – 5pm to 12am and 12am to 8am.

S.T.A.Y. Team services are advertised heavily to both students and other members of the Gary staff. There is a brochure that promises, "We may not get you what you

want...but we will get you what you need!!!" There is also a closed-circuit TV commercial. Both feature prominently the names, numbers, and hours of the three-team members. Last I heard, they were planning to run their pictures too.

About half of the students seek help on their own and staff refers the rest. There is a similar division between issues created by staff and issues created by students, though many of the original staff-created issues have been cleared up during the half-year or so the program has been operating.

The success rate is now around 70 percent, which I'm sure you'll agree, is pretty terrific. I asked what they looked for in a good team member. The answer? Somebody who knows a lot about the center, who has good investigative skills, who is smart, compassionate, dedicated enough to see the problems through, and, most important, able to make the kids feel that someone cares.

Team members report directly to the center director, regardless of their usual

chain of responsibility. They have the authority, delegated from the director, to sign off on student leaves and to change decisions made by other staff. They almost never exercise this authority – having it seems to be enough to get other staff members to go along.

The usual procedure when a student comes to a team member is first to ask, "What's wrong?" As often as not, the answer is "Everything!" The team member breaks down "Everything!" into a list of specific problems and schedules solutions, and then comes up with some incentive to get the student to come back tomorrow. That gives time for investigating and for the kid to cool off a little. The methodology works. Well enough, it seems to me, for other centers to start borrowing Gary's idea. My hat's off to all the folks at Gary who dreamed this up and made it real. We need more ideas this good.

For more information about the Gary S.T.A.Y. Team please contact: Victor Andrade, Karla Nilsen, or Oscar Warren at 512.396.6652

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to comment on the new emphasis on High School Diploma versus the GED, which is a great opportunity for Job Corps to partner up with local school districts. In my area it has been difficult to get past the barriers of the state educational agency. I would appreciate any help you could provide as far as tips or ideas to get past these barriers or articles from other parts of the Dallas Region as to how they've managed to overcome and persevere through the trouble spots. Also, the newsletter and the articles are great – keep up the great job!

R.G. – Texas

Dear Editor,

I wanted to extend a thank you to the Regional Office for the hard work in putting together March's Regional CDSS Conference. It was a great way for us to meet our counterparts and get a little problem-solving done in the process. It was the first time counselors were included and I absolutely appreciated it! Maybe in the future we can have these meetings more often and include others. Congratulations on a job well done!

L.P. – Arkansas

Continued from page 1 – American Red Cross

been trained as instructors in First Aid/CPR and the American Red Cross has similarly committed to training/certifying 20 students per quarter. A Work-Based Learning site will be established for BOT and/or HOT students within the year.

To foster a broader community-based involvement, Gary staff and student instructors will teach Health and Safety, International, and Disaster Training courses within the community when properly trained.

"This is a historical milestone in the annals of Gary Job Corps and the National Job Corps program," said Gary Center Director Lonnie Hall. "Gary will be the first Job Corps Center in the country to establish a Red Cross chapter for its local community on its center. We are proud to say that Gary and the Red Cross are following the dictates of the Workforce Investment Act in being true community partners. The Gary Job Corps center is committed to assisting the Red Cross' efforts in ensuring that there is no interruption of services to the citizens of Hays and Caldwell counties and is even now planning ways that those services can be expanded," said Hall.

JOB CORPS News

JACS Essay Contest

Twenty-eight students from fourteen trades participated in the 13th Annual JACS National Essay Contest at the North Texas Job Corps Center in McKinney, Texas. Dr. Leon Kilpatrick, Academic Education Manager, and Dr. Ruth Ray, Contest Director, presented certificates of Merit to each contestant. In addition, cash awards of \$15 were presented to five students for Honorable Mention. Cash Awards of \$50, \$75, and \$100 went to the top three winners. The awards were presented during an assembly with all 650 students and staff helping to "COUNT out the CASH!"

Third place winner, Floyd Sanders is from McKinney, Texas, and has been with Job Corps for six months. He is in Carpentry and plans to attend college when he finishes Job Corps. Second place went to Anthony Franklin from Ft. Worth, Texas, who has

been with Job Corps for five months and plans to continue his trade with advanced training. The first place winner was Tricia Terbush from Newark, Texas. Tricia has been with Job Corps for five months and is in Material Handling. After completing her career training, she plans to attend college. The theme of the essay was "How Job Corps Changed My Life," and the top three essays were forwarded to the Regional JACS contest.

JACS, the Join Action in Community Service, Inc., promotes the contest to help students better their writing skills, to provide recognition for Job Corps' top writers, and to provide an additional incentive to assist students in passing the essay component of the GED examination. Winners of the Regional Contest will advance to the National Level.



1st place winner Tricia Terbush (left) and Contest Director Dr. Ruth Ray (right).

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the center of new trends in industry, and to suggest modifications to the Job Corps Vocational Training courses to ensure that the curricula are up to date in technology and equipment. These recommendations will enhance the opportunities for employment for our graduates." He added that council members also serve as mentors to the students, provide Work-Based Learning sites, donate equipment, and hire Job Corps graduates.

The Industry Council, with a membership of more than 50 businesses, meets at the center on a quarterly basis.



Ask Arla



Dear Arla,

I am a little curious about how articles are selected for the newsletter. I submitted information for the last newsletter and my article wasn't used. What requirements did I not meet? S.H. – Texas

Dear S.H.,

To be totally honest with you, the only requirements for article submissions are that it is a current event about your center and that it be sent to me before the newsletter deadline. There's not much more to it than that. I apologize that your article wasn't used, but on rare occasion I receive too many stories for the newsletter and they don't all fit. So, I use them in order of when I received them and usually any stories left over appear in the next issue. Check this issue to make

sure your story appears and if it doesn't, please let me know. I appreciate and welcome the calls/inquiries because sometimes your articles don't make it to me because they either got lost in cyberspace or in the mail system. Thanks for keeping me on my toes!

Dear Arla,

I wanted to say thanks for the CDSS Directory that arrived with the last newsletter – it's been a great help! How often will the directory be updated and mailed out? Also, how can we make corrections?

M.G. – Arkansas

Dear M.G.,

You're welcome! The CDSS Directory will be updated bi-monthly and will be mailed with each newsletter. Corrections can be sent to me via email or fax so that I can verify spelling and check numbers. While

I'm on this topic – I would like to add that not every center staff person is listed in the directory. I've had calls from staff wanting to be added or wondering why they weren't listed. When the directory was decided upon, it was also determined that the list would only consist of Center Directors, Deputy Directors, BCLs, Academic Managers, Vocational Managers, ACs, TCs, and CAs. Thanks for the feedback!

All articles, information, Letters to the Editor, Ask Arla letters, and CDSS Directory changes for the July newsletter are due by **Monday, June 24, 2002**, to:

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David L. Carrasco

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La Palabra student newspaper*

Thirteen Food and Service students were given an opportunity to once again use their culinary skills by catering the El Paso Police Department's annual awards banquet on March 13th at the Hilton Camino Real, which donated their kitchens and ballroom for the event. The students and Instructor Juan Lara went to the hotel where they prepared and served dinner to 250 police officers and their guests. Following the ceremony, Deputy Director Manual Gameros was presented with a plaque of appreciation for the students' hard work and dedication.

Gary

During the San Marcos Corporate Fitness Challenge, the Gary Job Corps Community's John Esquivel (Maintenance Department) and Jennifer Siudzinski (Administrative Department) came in 1st place in the Division II Dart Tournament. For ten years, San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department has brought together local companies in friendly competition in the form of the Corporate Fitness Challenge. Gary Job Corps Community is proud of their staff for their commitment to work and fitness.



Left to right: Dick Hunter, Vice President, Dell Americas Operations; Thermon Woodard, Vice President, Dell Global Diversity; Rachel Esquivel, Work-Based Learning Specialist; Dugan Shugart, Human Resources/Staffing, Dell Americas Operation; Ron Diehl, Human Resources Generalist, Dell Americas Operations; Earl L. Moseley, Jr., Work-Based Learning Specialist.

Dell Executives met at Gary Job Corps Community on March 1st to take a tour of the facilities and reaffirm their working relationship with Gary Job Corps. According to Dick Hunter, Vice President of Dell Americas Operations, "the Gary Job Corps students are the best temporary workers we have." The tour was set up by

the Work-Based Learning Department to introduce the new executives to our facilities. The Dell representatives took a tour of the Information Technology program, and visited with Mr. Lonnie Hall, Gary Center Director, about how to further partnerships.

The Gary Job Corps Auto Body class received seven trophies at the recent Auto Show sponsored by the San Marcos Optimist Club at the Gary Community. There were 55 entrants in the competition covering various classes and groups.

North Texas

Congratulations to all of the students at the North Texas Job Corps Center who participated in the National Groundhog Job Shadow Day! More than 52 students participated in the event and spent the day shadowing firefighters, police, computer programmers, teachers, city employees, and other professionals in the community. Sandra Herndon, Business Community Liaison, took advantage of this unique opportunity to strengthen community and employer bonds while soliciting hosts for this worthwhile event. Job Shadow Day was a great learning experience for all involved. Not only did students discover how skills learned are put into action, businesses learned a great deal about how important it is to interest and engage students in the workplace today. As we guide students into becoming productive and tax-paying citizens of tomorrow, events such as Groundhog Job Shadow Day give them a direct connection between academics and jobs.

Roswell

The Roswell Job Corps Center hosted its annual Career Day Workshops on April 19, 2002, and demonstrated the connection between academics and careers. There were 11 local and distant employers that participated and 20 community members that served as facilitators for the 8 workshops scheduled. The employers included HighTech Institute, McAlum Security Service, Carpenter's Union/ Apprenticeship Program, New Mexico Department of Labor – One-Stop Center, Transportation Communication's Union, ENMU – Roswell-

Student Outreach, Navy Recruiters, Army Recruiters, Marine Recruiters, Air Force Recruiters, and Army National Guard Recruiters. The workshops served to expand career opportunities for our graduates as well as to build and strengthen community ties.

Congratulations to Roswell Job Corps Center's top three students for the month of March! Chad Reed received the Kiwanis Award, has been with Job Corps for five months, and is enrolled in the electrical program. He plans to advance complete his course this fall and attend college where he'll major in aircraft mechanics. The Altrusa Award went to Valerie Vargas who's been with Job Corps since April 2001, has completed the health occupations program advanced level, and is currently enrolled in business office technology. She plans to graduate from the program in June and attend college to become a Registered Nurse. Valerie was also recently inducted to the National Vocational Technical Honor Society. Matthew Williams was the recipient of the Rotary Club Award as well as the Center Director's Award. Matthew has been with Job Corps since August 2001 and has completed the culinary arts program at the advanced level. He plans to one day own his own restaurant.

Shreveport

On Monday, April 29, 2002, Dr. Robert Schiller, Caddo Parish School Board Superintendent, made a visit to the Shreveport Job Corps Center to observe the current status of the Shreveport Job Corps Opportunity Center. As he walked through, he spoke to many of the high school enrollees as well as participated in actual hands-on instruction in the state-of-the-art Compass Learning program. Several Associations of Student Worker representatives, Desmond Bell, President, Kenneth Crain, Reporter, and Mae Gardner, Sergeant at Arms gave him a center tour. Along with the High School operation observation he was given an opportunity to see the male dormitory, Business Office Technology, and Union Painting trade. All areas were reported by Dr. Schiller to be quite exceptional in cleanliness and organization.